

**Witness Name:** Kelly Joanne Stewart

**Statement No:** WITN2553001

**Dated:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KELLY JOANNE STEWART**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Kelly Joanne Stewart will say as follows:-

**1. Introduction**

1. My name is Kelly Joanne Stewart. My date of birth is GRO-C 1980.  
My address is GRO-C

2. I live at this address with my husband Justin Christopher Stewart and our son

GRO-C

3. I intend to speak about my husband Justin Christopher Stewart infection of Hepatitis C, which he contracted from a blood transfusion in the 1980's. In particular, the nature of his illness and how this affected me.

## **2. How Infected**

1. I have known Justin since I was 11 years old. His sister is my best friend. When I was about 28 years old Justin and I started a relationship. I can remember his sister telling me that he had been infected with hepatitis C through blood given to him at the time that he found out.

## **3. Other Infections**

1. There is a possibility Justin may have contracted CJD. He told me he had a letter in the year 2000 from the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle informing him that the pool of blood products he'd had from them in storage and used by him was infected with CJD. He was studying Marine Technology at the time at Newcastle University.

## **4. Consent**

1. From what Justin has told me I believe he was tested for hepatitis C without his knowledge or consent for three years before it was confirmed to him at the Haemophilia Unit in Cardiff.
2. During the time he was being tested he was not given any information.

## **5. Impact**

1. Justin doesn't talk about it much and certainly doesn't tell anyone he was infected with the hepatitis C virus. The stigma around drug users is the reason why he doesn't tell anyone.
2. Although Justin has been cleared of the infection he does worry it may come back.
3. A couple of years after we got married we decided to start IVF treatment. Justin had his sperm stored in Middlesex hospital and I had problems conceiving in a previous relationship. We could only have treatment at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital in a private capacity due to the Hepatitis C infection. The NHS refused to fund this due to me having a daughter even though I had problems conceiving. The treatment to prepare myself for this was very full on and Justin had to inject me everyday. On the day of my eggs being taken out to be fertilised with Justin's sperm that had been frozen, I was under sedation when we were told Justin's sperm wasn't viable. We were told at the time that the Doctor, who had frozen the sperm, hadn't done it properly, or something had gone wrong. We were traumatised. I remember Justin being very angry at the time. We were both very disappointed and upset. My eggs were thrown in the bin, followed by Justin's sperm.
4. We later went on to have donor IVF and on the fourth attempt, which was the last chance for us I was pregnant. I remember Justin being petrified of me having a miscarriage. We now have a son called [GRO-C] who is six years old. When [GRO-C] was born, Justin was nervous at first but bonded with him greatly. He obviously wanted a child of his own.
5. The IVF treatment cost around £34,000. The last payment we made on this was the month [GRO-C] was born. This had a financial impact upon us, however it was worth every penny. However, due to the nature of Justin's illnesses, I feel the NHS should have funded this treatment.
6. Justin tends to bottle up any anxieties he has about hepatitis C. He worries about it coming back even though he has been cleared of it, no one will say he has been cured.

## **6. Treatment/Care/Support**

1. As soon as Justin was diagnosed he was prescribed the Alpha Interferon treatment and luckily he was cleared of the infection.
2. Justin suffers with arthritis in his joints and in 2017 he was prescribed Naproxen, which caused an ulcer in his stomach. This created a bleed in his stomach, which resulted in him having five units of blood transfused. This was carried out at Withybush Hospital, Pembrokeshire.

## **7. Financial Assistance**

1. Fifteen years ago Justin was awarded £20,000 from the Skipton Fund through the Valindre Trust. Dr Dasani from the Haemophilia Clinic in Cardiff filled in the forms on his behalf. He also gets £385 monthly payments.
2. The Haemophilia Clinic in Cardiff applied for the second stage but this was refused due to it not being proven that Hodgkin's Lymphoma is caused by hepatitis C.

## **8. Other Issues**

1. I do not have anything to add in this section.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated.....

7-2-19